

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
July 25, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of June 27 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the June 27, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. CALFED Operations Briefing Package; July 25, 2001; John Leahigh; DWR
2. Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Update; July 25, 2001; NMFS; Bruce Oppenheim
3. 2001 Delta Smelt 20 mm Survey #8 and Length Frequency charts; July 25, 2001; Dan Buford; FWS

SWRCB

The SWRCB approved on July 12 the USBR's request for use of Joint Point of Diversion. The JPOD will be used to transfer the "forbearance water" purchased by Westlands Water District. The approval is effective through September 30.

The SWRCB will hear public comment on August 1 on the draft order taking final action on petitions for reconsideration of Decision 1635. This decision addressed the partial assignment of a State filed application to El Dorado Irrigation District for diversion of water from the American River. The draft order reverses the original decision by including Term 91 in the permit of EID. A number of written comments were received on the issue. The draft order will be before the Board for a vote on August 16.

The SWRCB will hold a hearing on August 7 to consider a water right revocation notice issued to the Delta Sugar Corporation. The water right holder petitioned the SWRCB to transfer water under a right that has been inactive for many years. The Division of Water Rights responded by issuing a notice for revocation.

SWRCB has scheduled a public workshop on September 20 in which parties to the Settlement Agreement for Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta Water Rights Hearing will describe the progress that has been made toward the first workplan required by the agreement.

Environmental Water Account Implementation

The EWA matrix at the back of the Operations Package was discussed.

OFF and DAT Update

OFF and DAT updates will be removed from the agenda until actions recur in the fall. Due to a reorganization at CCWD, Greg Gartrell can no longer chair the OFF. Richard Denton will replace Greg at the CALFED Ops Group meetings.

Fishery Status

Salmon: Discussed the salmon handout. To date, the number of winter run redds identified in the upper Sacramento River is double the number of last year. The final count will not be available for some time, but the run so far is promising. Most of the redds are upstream of Balls Ferry, but at least one has been identified downstream of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

Splittail: The comment period on splittail was extended through September due to new analyses introduced.

Delta Smelt: Discussed the 20 mm Survey #8 and the Length Frequency handouts. Latest delta smelt 20 mm survey showed smelt concentrated in the lower Sacramento River around Horseshoe Bend/Sherman Island. There was discussion that habitat there is not as good for smelt as it would be in Suisun Marsh, where smelt concentrations were low.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status: DWR completed transfer of the Yuba County Water Agency purchase for the EWA and has started exporting the YCWA transfer to the Dry Year Program (for SWP Contractors) earlier this week.

Delta Operations Criteria: Bay-Delta Standards for the month of July were discussed. Compliance with the 150 mg/L chloride standard for Rock Slough for the required 165 days was achieved last weekend. The controlling standard now is the 5,000 cfs Delta outflow requirement. Beginning August, the Jersey Point salinity standard will control through August 15, after which the Contra Costa 250 mg/L standard should control.

Operations Plan: The USBR is considering changing some fisheries actions during April and May from EWA to B2 actions, which would increase the account for the EWA. Currently, a carryover of 52,000 acre-feet is expected for the end of the year.

DWR, Reclamation, and private consulting staff met with SDWA and Union Island farmers to discuss possible low water level solutions during extreme low tide events when the Projects are diverting and the temporary barriers are operating. While the landowners did not accept the offer of installing temporary pumps during July, this option is still available to them in August.

SLDMWA, SDWA, and others requested that CALFED consider opening up the Water Operations Management Team to stakeholder observation. Currently, the WOMT, which makes many of the decisions on operational issues, meets in closed session.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . August 22, 2001

Appointment of OFF chair
Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment Status